

# 5. Psalm 11-14

September 6, 2007

Let's look at a couple of definitions first:

- Confidence – full trust; belief in the powers, trustworthiness, or reliability of a person or thing. Certitude; assurance
- Pride – A high or inordinate opinion of one's own dignity, importance, merit, or superiority, whether as cherished in the mind or as displayed in bearing, conduct, etc.

The former is relying on the previous records of person's faithfulness and power, but the latter one is relying on his or her own opinion about self which does not include objectivity.

It is one thing to have confidence in God, His power, faithfulness and the talents He allows us to have, but it is a complete different and dangerous thing to have pride in oneself, because it is a sure way to destruction.

## Psalm 11 - Confidence in God's justice

The historical setting of this psalm is unknown. Apparently David was in desperate situation with his life. The temptation to run away from danger challenged his confidence in God.

### A. RUNNING WITHOUT KNOWING WHERE WE ARE GOING

*Psalm 11:1-3 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. In the Lord I put my trust; How can you say to my soul, "Flee as a bird to your mountain"? 2 For look! The wicked bend their bow, They make ready their arrow on the string, That they may shoot secretly at the upright in heart. 3 If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?*

It is not unusual for well-meaning friends, including godly ones, to give absolutely wrong advices – Temptation to flee from danger. David marveled at this suggestion from the fainthearted because it defied his faith in the Lord.

This is the kind of advice worldly psychologists would give you today. They will tell you that what you need to do is get away from your problems. "Go off somewhere – just avoid the problems. Flee from your present circumstances." However, getting away from it all does not solve a thing. No matter where you go, you are going to have to lug yourself along. You can never run away from yourself. That is not the way to solve personal problems.

Secular marriage counselors would be quick to recommend a divorce to troubled married couples. Because many of born-again Christians were also influenced by the worldly ideas, they think that it is OK to go through a divorce. Whom are they kidding? Themselves only. When they jump off the frying pan of marriage, there is fire waiting for them. Remember, no matter where you go, you carry yourself.

We must always be careful with the advice we give to others.

- 1) We must always mind our own business and not be busybodies.
- 2) We can be too confident in our own perception of a situation.
- 3) We need to wait upon the Lord before we give our advice to others.

Our motive might be good and right, but the advice can be wrong.

The best way to deal with a problem is not simply facing it. Face the problem with the Lord Jesus in front of us.

## **B. THE LORD IS OUR REFUGE AND RIGHTEOUS**

*Psalm 11:4-7 The Lord is in His holy temple, The Lord's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men. 5 The Lord tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates. 6 Upon the wicked He will rain coals; Fire and brimstone and a burning wind Shall be the portion of their cup. 7 For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright.*

David's initial declaration is looking for a refuge in the Lord. That is what all of us need to do.

David responded that the righteous can trust in the real Source of secure government – the Lord, whose throne is exalted in the heavens, His holy temple, far from the wicked schemes.

It is wrong to think that our God is just a lovey dovey God who winks at anything and everything. On the contrary, His standard is high and uncompromising.

God tests the followers of Jesus Christ, not because He doesn't know how we would react, rather He wants us to know about ourselves. He loves us and His testing is for our own good and His glory.

When the concept of fear comes upon us, we can only arrive at the answer of faith by spending time with the Lord. When we think about our problems, the advice of fear often overwhelms us. When we pray about our problems, the answer of faith assures our hearts.

## **C. APPLICATIONS**

1) When we think about our problems, the concept of fear often overwhelms us. When we pray about our problems, the answer of faith assures our hearts.

2) The best way to deal with a problem is not simply facing it. Face the problem with the Lord Jesus in front of us.

## **Psalm 12 - Confidence in God's Word**

This psalm expresses David's confidence in the untarnished words of God that assure him He will deliver those who seek His salvation.

### **A. THERE IS NOBODY EXCEPT ME**

*Psalm 12:1 To the Chief Musician. On an eight-stringed harp. A Psalm of David. Help, Lord, for the godly man ceases! For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men.*

It is easy to develop an Elijah complex today.

*1 Kings 19:10 So he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."*

Many people develop this complex. Even though it is not correct, it can happen when we see godlessness on every hand.

More and more people depart from their faith in God because of the worldly influences. The thoughts of non-believers and the enemies of God go from bad to worse. Nobody blushes anymore, because wrong is accepted as good.

*Jeremiah 6:15* Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; Nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time I punish them, They shall be cast down," says the Lord.

## **B. THEIR DEFIANCE AGAINST GOD**

*Psalm 12:2-4* They speak idly everyone with his neighbor; With flattering lips and a double heart they speak. 3 May the Lord cut off all flattering lips, And the tongue that speaks proud things, 4 Who have said, "With our tongue we will prevail; Our lips are our own; Who is lord over us?"

These people were filled with pride and assuming that they would win over God. This reminds me the Pharaoh who thought he could take on God of Israel before the exodus happened.

*Exodus 5:2* And Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go."

Because of his stubbornness, he refused to admit that God of Israel is one true God. The whole land of Egypt became in ruin by continuing his refusal to obey the Lord. And his army was destroyed and made themselves defenseless to their enemies.

That's what the unbeliever's situation is like without God:

- 1) He stubbornly refuses to know the way of salvation in spite of all the truth that points to Jesus.
- 2) His eternal life will be ruined because of his disobedience to follow the Lord.
- 3) He is completely defenseless to satan and becomes obedient to him without realizing it.

When we choose not to obey God, it automatically makes a choice for us to follow the devil. There is no such a thing is a neutral position in the spiritual realm.

## **C. CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S WORD**

*Psalm 12:5-8* "For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, Now I will arise," says the Lord; "I will set him in the safety for which he yearns." 6 The words of the Lord are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times. 7 You shall keep them, O Lord, You shall preserve them from this generation forever. 8 The wicked prowls on every side, When vileness is exalted among the sons of men.

The Word of God's untarnished nature is compared to the process of refining silver. Of course, "seven times" symbolizes completeness and perfection. What God says is true and reliable. His Word is not tainted with deceit and false flattery like men's but is completely dependable.

V8 sounds like what we would see in evening newspaper or 6 o'clock TV news headlines. Human's wickedness has not changed for the better, it probably is getting worse by minutes.

## **D. APPLICATIONS**

1) God's Word is completely reliable and truthful. We can find the strength we need from it.

2) When we choose not to obey God, it automatically makes a choice for us to follow the devil. There is no such a thing is a neutral position in the spiritual realm.

## **Psalm 13 - Confidence in God's love**

David is being pursued as he writes this psalm – probably by King Saul. Day after day he found himself in a desperate situation. In weariness of body and soreness of mind and heart he cries out to God. But before he ends his psalm, he finds confidence in the love of God and renews strength through Him.

### **A. THERE IS NOBODY EXCEPT ME**

*Psalm 13:1-4 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? 2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul, Having sorrow in my heart daily? How long will my enemy be exalted over me? 3 Consider and hear me, O Lord my God; Enlighten my eyes, Lest I sleep the sleep of death; 4 Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed against him"; Lest those who trouble me rejoice when I am moved.*

In a series of rhetorical questions designed to motivate God to answer his prayer. David felt ignored by God and forgotten. Wrestling inwardly his heart was filled with struggles and sorrow. I am sure that all of us have been there one time or another.

"Enlighten my eyes" was David's way of requesting divine wisdom or perspective on his need.

When we pray, we often approach to the Lord with the intention to change God's heart or change the circumstances to our favor. But while I talk to Him in prayer, I often find myself being changed according to His way.

### **B. REJOICING IN GOD OUR LORD**

*Psalm 13:5-6 But I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. 6 I will sing to the Lord, Because He has dealt bountifully with me.*

After having heaved this awful sigh of sorrow, David continues in prayer, and he finally settles back in wonderful faith and trust in God. Wherever we are and whoever we are and however we are, we can still sing praises to God.

### **C. APPLICATIONS**

1) Wherever we are and whoever we are and however we are, we can still sing praises to God.

2) True spiritual maturity can be seen in individual's gratitude and thanks to the Lord in the midst of the difficulties of their lives.

## **Psalm 14 - Confidence in God's mercy**

Knowing that the human race is foolish and corrupt, and that the Lord will destroy such people for their actions, the psalmist longed for the establishment of the Lord's kingdom on earth.

### **A. "THERE IS NO GOD," SAYS A FOOL**

*Psalm 14:1-6 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good. 2 The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God. 3 They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one. 4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, Who eat up my people as they eat bread, And do not call on the Lord? 5 There they are in great fear, For God is with the generation of the righteous. 6 You shame the counsel of the poor, But the Lord is his refuge.*

Anyone who honestly seeks the truth about God can find Him without a great theology or adventure. All he or she has to do is look around at nature or even look at oneself.

*Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,*

The Hebrew word for "fool" in this verse is 'nabal'. This may ring a bell in your recollection, because there was a man by the name of Nabal who was married to a lovely woman by the name of Abigail. His story is told in 1 Samuel 25. His name certainly characterized him accurately. He acted a fool.

The word "fool" means 'insane or mad'. Whether atheists declare that there is no God, there is God and they are trying to ignore the fact. Anyone who fights against facts and truth is only frustrating himself and in the end he will realize that he was a fool.

### **B. SALVATION OF ISRAEL THROUGH GOD**

*Psalm 14:7 Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When the Lord brings back the captivity of His people, Let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.*

Anyone who says that God does not have a future purpose for Israel is admitting that he doesn't know very much about Israel.

### **C. APPLICATION**

Anyone who insists that there is no God is ignoring all the facts in creation that point to His existence.